

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NIC-01 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 111300

R 011402Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT BL

SUBJ: LABOR TENSIONS SUBSIDE

REF: LA PAZ 5886

1. MARIO PAZ SOLDAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BANK WORKERS CONFEDERATIONX AND ONE OF THE 89 PERSONS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE PLOT AGAINST THE GOB, WAS EXILED IN PARAGUAY ON SEPTEMBER 27. THE MINISTRY OOF INTERIOR STATED THAT PAZ'S EXILE WAS BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE MINISTRY'S INVESTIGATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND ON THE FACT THAT HIS DETENTION WAS BEING USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR AGITATION BY CERTAIN GROUPS.

2. LEADERS OF THE MINERS FEDERATION MET WITH PRESIDENT BANZER ON SEPTEMBER 27. THE MINERS HAD APPARENTLY ASKED FOR THE MEETING BEFORE THE WEEKEND WAVE OF ARRESTS TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF TRADE UNION ISSUES, BUT WITH TENSIONS ON THE LABOR SCENE HIGH THE MEETING TOOK ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE. THE PRESIDENT WAS FIRM IN DEALING WITH THE MINERS, BUT HE DID ACCEDE TO THEIR

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REQUEST THAT HE GRANT AN AUDIENCE TO THE FACTORY WORKERS,

WHOSE LEADER, LUIS LOPEZ, IS STILL UNDER GOB DETENTION.

3. THE ARCHBISHOP OF LA PAZ ENDED HIS MEDIATION ON BEHALF OF THE BANK AND FACTORY WORKERS WITH THE FACTORY WORKERS HAVING OBTAINED THEIR AUDIENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT THROUGH THE MINERS' INTERCESSION AND THE BANK WORKERS HAVING FAILED TO RESPOND TO AN INVITATION TO MEET WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 27.

4. LEADERS OF THE BANK WORKERS SUSPENDED THEIR HUNGER STRIKE SEPTEMBER 27 THUS ACCEDING TO GOB DEMANDS THAT THEY CEASE ALL PROVOCATIVE ACTION. FACTORY WORKERS WERE REPORTEDLY ON THEIR JOBS THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC EXCEPT FOR SANTA CRUZ.

5. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY MUCH ON TOP OF THE SITUATION. THE BANK, FACTORY AND TO SOME EXTENT MINE WORKERS HAVE CONCEDED THEIR IMPOTENCE FOR THE MOMENT.
STEDMAN

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30 JUN 2005

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